Patent Claims:

1. Method for calculating the lateral force in a motor vehicle with an electromechanical or electrohydraulic steering system, the said method comprising the following steps:
   - recording a steering rod force ($F_L$);
   - calculating a total restoring torque ($M_Z$) from the steering rod force, with the said restoring torque comprising a restoring torque ($M_{Z,Y}$) generated by lateral force ($F_Y$) and other restoring torques ($M_{Z,B}$, $M_{Z,R}$, $M_{Z,A}$, $M_{Z,Z1}$, $M_{Z,Z2}$);
   - quantitative determination of the other restoring torques based on measured values;
   - subtracting the other restoring torques from the total restoring torque for determining the restoring torque generated by the lateral force; and
   - determining the lateral force ($F_Y$) from the restoring torque ($M_{Z,Y}$) generated by the lateral force.

2. Method as claimed in claim 1,
   c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a transmission ratio ($i_{L2}$) between the steering rod force ($F_L$) and the total restoring torque ($M_Z$) is included in the determination of the lateral force.

3. Method as claimed in claim 2,
   c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the transmission ratio ($i_{L2}(\delta)$) is responsive to the steering angle.

4. Method as claimed in claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a kingpin inclination ($\sigma$) and/or a caster angle ($\tau$) is included in the determination of the lateral force ($F_Y$).

5. Method as claimed in claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the other restoring torques comprise a restoring torque ($M_{Z,R}$, $M_{Z,B}$, $M_{Z,A}$, $M_{Z,Z1}$, $M_{Z,Z2}$) generated by rolling resistance ($F_R$), brake force ($F_B$), driving power ($F_A$), and/or by vertical force.

6. Method as claimed in claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the steering rod force is detected as a force that acts on the left and right steering tie rod or as the total steering rod force ($F_L$).

7. Method as claimed in claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the total steering rod force ($F_L$) is calculated from a steering torque ($M_L$) generated by the driver, a steering amplification ($V_L$), and a steering ratio ($i_{L1}$).

8. Method as claimed in claim 7,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a steering-angle-responsive steering ratio ($i_{L1}(\delta)$) enters into the calculation of the steering rod force ($F_L$).

9. Method as claimed in claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the total steering rod force is determined from the motor current and/or the motor position of one or more electric motors (8)

of the electromechanical or electrohydraulic steering system.

10. Method as claimed in claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a sideslip angle is determined from the determined lateral force ($F_Y$).

11. Method as claimed in claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a coefficient of friction is determined from the determined lateral force ($F_Y$).